

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 H-01 /088 W

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R 111810Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 619

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, COMECON

SUBJECT: INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND COMECON

1. KAWAN OF EC COMMISSION, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF FOUR-
MAN EC DELEGATION LED BY WELLENSTEIN, PROVIDED US
DETAILS ON FIRST TALKS WITH COMECON OFFICIALS. HIS
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DESCRIPTION IS CONSISTENT WITH PRESS REPORTS, I.E.,

COMECON GROUP WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ONLY TECHNICAL DETAILS OF VISIT BY PRESIDENT ORTOLI, WHILE WELLENSTEIN WAS DETERMINED TO TAKE UP SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AND HAD BORAD AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

2. KAWAN SAID MOST OF COMECON GROUP WAS INIMPRESSIVE AGING BUREAUCRATS NO HIGHER THAN DEPARTMENT HEADS. THEY WERE AMAZED THAT EC HAD SPECIFIC POSITION PAPERS AND PROPOSALS, AND REMARKED THAT EC MUST HAVE SPEND A YEAR IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING. WHEN THEY TRIED TO CONFIRM DISCUSSION TO ORTOLI'S SCHEDULE, WELLENSTEIN SAID ABRUPTLY HE WAS NOT INTERESTED AND HAD NOT COME TO MOSCOW FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. EC GROUP INSISTED ON BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS DESPITE COMECON EFFORT TO FILL TIME WITH SIGHTSEEING AND CULTURAL EVENTS. COMECON GROUP WAS FORCED TO BRING IN SPECIALISTS ON TOPICS EC RAISED AND THESE SPECIALISTS DID PROVIDE USEFUL DETAILS ON COMECON ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS AREAS, NOTWITHSTANDING EFFORTS OF COMECON DELEGATION LEADERS TO CUT THEM SHORT.

4. SIX-HOUR DEADLOCK OVER PRESS COMMUNIQUE RESULTED FROM COMECON'S INSISTENCE ON LIMITING IT TO STATEMENT THAT GROUPS (COMECON REFUSED TO REGARD THEM AS "DELEGATIONS") HAD DISCUSSED ORTOLI'S SCHEDULE, WITHOUT REFERRING TO SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS.

5. EC HAD DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING EVEN NAMES OF OFFICIALS THEY WERE DEALING WITH. AFTER PRESSING, THEY WERE FINALLY GIVEN LIST OF 31 OFFICIALS IN CYRILLIC BUT WITHOUT TITLES. ASKING FOR ORGANIZATION CHART OF COMECON, THEIR ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO ROUGH ONE IN FEDEYEV'S BOOK ON COMECON LACKING NAMES.

6. KAWAN SAW SOME BENEFITS FROM MEETING: (A) IT FORSTALLED A "DISASTROUS" VISIT BY ORTOLI; (B) EC HAD MANAGED TO OBTAIN HIGHLY USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DYNAMICS AND LIMITATIONS OF COMECON; (C) EVERY WORD WAS TRANSCRIBED BY STENOGRAPHERS AND HOPEFULLY PRESENTATIONS BY EC ON ITS WORKINGS WOULD BE WIDELY CIRCULATED AND HELP DISPEL IGNORANCE THEY FOUND AMONG COMECON AFFOCIALDOM.

7. ASKED WHY EC TAKING SUCH PAINS TO DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH INFERIOR ORGANIZATION LIKE COMECON, KAWAN SAID

THAT, ONCE COMECON HAD MADE INITIAL OVERTURES,PUBLIC
OPINION WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED EC NOT TO FOLLOW UP.
MOREOVER, SNUBBING OF COMECON WOULD HAVE COMPLICATED
EC EFFORTS TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
MEMBER COUNTRIES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: KAWAN ASKED IF WE HAD
SUCCEEDED IN FILLING IN MEANINGFUL COMECON ORGANIZA-
TION CHART. IF AVAILABLE, CAN ONE BE PROVIDED US FOR DELIVER
TO HIM AND POSSIBLY TO USEC FOR DELIVERY IN BRUSSELS AS
WELL? KAWAN ALSO SAID EC WOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF
ANY INFO WE PICK UP ON WAY EAST IS PLAYING
RESULTS OF MEETING.DALE

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